



# EM Recovery NEWS FLASH

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## Recovery Act Workers Complete Environmental Cleanup of Coal Ash Basin

**AIKEN, S.C.** – The Savannah River Site (SRS) recently cleaned up a 17-acre basin containing coal ash residues from Cold War operations. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act project was safely completed at a cost of \$8.9 million, \$2.9 million under budget.

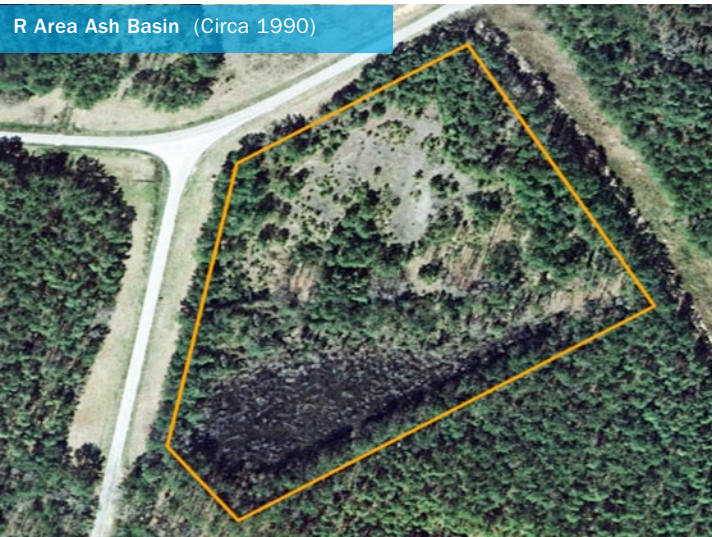
The manmade earthen basin received ash from the former R Area Powerhouse operations, which ended in 1964. The first of five reactors constructed at SRS, the R Reactor produced nuclear materials for national defense.

Recovery Act funding allowed SRS to accelerate cleanup of the basin and complete the project five years earlier than the target set in a regulatory schedule. In late 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control determined the closure met all regulatory requirements after inspection of the site.

In environmental restoration efforts at the basin, Recovery Act workers removed vegetation, consolidated ash into the basin footprint, installed 83,000 cubic yards of soil and sod cover, and planted seedlings. The vegetative layer prevents precipitation from infiltrating the basin's ash residues and entering the groundwater.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, SRS's management and operating contractor, led the project. The bulk of remediation was performed by subcontractor Gem Technologies, which participates in the DOE's Mentor-Protégé Program. The DOE Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization strives to increase subcontracting opportunities by encouraging prime contractors to assist small disadvantaged businesses through participation in the program.

"This is a great opportunity to work with small businesses in the Mentor-Protégé Program, and together realize a safe and successful project completion," DOE-Savannah River Recovery Act Program Director Zack Smith said.



R Area Ash Basin (Circa 1990)



R Area Ash Basin - After Sod Placement (November 2010)

